

Mississippi Forestry Commission
Safety Council minutes
January 2006

Members present: Robbie Gill, Doug Vandevander, Ed Brown, George Byrd, Greg Bourque, Bob Ponder, Jim Edwards, Greg Chatham, Steve Williams, John Walker, Richard McInnis, Everard Baker

Guest: Michael Sherman

Welcome - Robbie Gill

Reading of minutes – silently by everyone.

Discussion of minutes: Group session.

Minutes read and approved by the council.

New/old topics:

Boot issue: Where are we on the boot issue.

Bob Ponder: Waiting on a grant to be written up so we might be able to purchase boots on it.

Nomex issue: What is the status of nomex?

Bob Ponder: Waiting for the OK, to bid out. Bid packet is written just waiting on the Ok to go ahead and advertise.

Uniforms: What is the status on the uniforms?

Bob Ponder: We are expecting the uniforms in by the first of February; Van Dyne Crotty has called and said the uniforms will ship Monday.

Lights for trucks: Greg and Bob will have to get together and see what best fits the needs of the Commission.

Inspection reports: Ed Brown stated that we need a statewide inspection report like we looked at the last meeting.

Wants to get everyone on the same page using the same report. Council agreed.

John Walker was going to look into getting a standardized form. And was going to look into getting the form put on the MFC website.

We need to make sure that we continue or get back to the monthly inspection in all areas.

We need to make sure we have inspection forms for the sites, fire shelters as well as the vehicles.

John Walker plans to have periodical site inspections in the future. Will probably give notice before the first one but after that it might be unannounced.

Radio instruction: Greg said that anyone who needed radio instruction could get them. They are to be put on the MFC website so everyone can download.

Safety meetings: Safety meeting should continue on biweekly basis. At least at the area level, if it is not able to do it at the district level.

Accident discussion: Group discussed the accident involving the mechanic and the ramp. Got the updated status of the injured employee. Discussed the methods of how this accident could have been avoided.

Topics: Further discussed from this accident.

- (1) Was the proper care for the employee taken?
- (2) Should we go the extra mile for the health and well being of the employee?
- (3) Should we ask Jan Baker, personnel department to be involved in the safety council meeting?

Conclusions: Proper treatment was taken, but we should have gone the extra mile and got the employee a second opinion on his injury with it being a severe head injury. We should get Jan involved with the safety council meeting due to the fact she is the one that deals with the tort claims.

Also we should try and get all employees (unless you are the operator) to stand at least 20 feet away from the ramps when they are being used.

Other topics:

S-216 driving course should be instituted for all employees.

Add fire shelters to inspection list.

Round table:

Jim Edward, NWD: We need to make sure every one fills out the first aid reports. For Injury or illness.
We need more atvs to do forest management work with.
We need the Workers Comp. Form with the Manderville, LA address.

Is there anyway we can do away with the seat belt on the tractors and go to a seat harness?

Need to have more information for employees working around hazardous work sites. See if we can get a list of these work sites and dumps.

Would like to see the Hard Hat Certificate plan back in action to build up morale.

Ed Brown: Just stated the importance of the safety factor. Lets not forget the accident discussed earlier.

Richard McInnis: Cross training on equipment. We need to cross train our personnel on the different types of equipment we have in case they are called on to go work in a different area with different equipment.

Steve Williams: Radio problems. We need to clear up our in house problems and use better communication ethics. Tower sites to be sold, what are the plans.

3 ring binder: Does any one know where the old 3 ring binder from previous safety council meeting is.

Robbie Gill: Make sure we do the safety inspections on tower sites.

No other discussion from the floor.

Remember the safety inspections for the tower and work centers. John Walker might be lurking in the bushes.

Next Safety Council Meeting: April 20, 2006.

Meeting adjourned.

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